

To: "Claircy-riviere, C." <c.claircy-riviere@unesco.org>
From: John Scythes <jscythes@infinity.net>
Subject: RE: My visit with Professor Montagnier, follow up thoughts
Cc: "Bob Notenboom" <bnotenboom@phoenixbiotech.com> "Patrice Sednaoui"
<patrice.sednaoui@institutfournier.org> "Karoly Nagy" <nagykar@net.sote.hu>
Bcc: "Colman Jones" <colman@colman.net>
Attached:

At 11:58 AM 08/07/2005, you wrote:
See you on Wednesday 20th July at 9:30 am ! Claude

-----Message d'origine-----

De : John Scythes [mailto:jscythes@infinity.net]
Envoyé : vendredi 8 juillet 2005 16:46
À : Claircy-riviere, C.
Cc : Nagy Karoly
Objet : RE: My visit with Prof Montagnier at 10am Wed 20th

Dear Claude and Luc:

Please accept my thanks for the time last Wednesday. I felt we needed more time to cover some of the points, and perhaps we can continue in Montreal, and as well by email in the meantime.

The detection of possible co-factor infections for the progression of HIV into clinical AIDS is our interest at the moment. With respect to syphilis, and possibly other non-STDs, direct detection of gene sequences to prove contact with the putative co-factor virus or bacterium may be the best way. The immune system may fail to indicate infection with some of these co-factors, and this failure is part of our working hypotheses for latent syphilis. As we cannot culture the pale treponema for diagnosis, nor for antigens for research, this concern is even more pressing. We reviewed these points together.

Several centres have been working on syphilis NAA, mainly with 47kDa PCR. At the recent ISSTD there were a few papers given on direct detection of Tp DNA, and the papers <www.isstdr.org> are in the WP - A9 Basic Science - Syphilis session, starting at WP-049. Genes for the 47kDa, and polA are both sensitive and specific with the Taqman method, at least in the small numbers being tested at this time. Most of this work can be summarised as confirmation of known syphilis cases already diagnosed clinically or by serological tests. By contrast, our projects with the 200 gay men in Budapest looked at whole blood and erythrocyte PCR *screening*, and was therefore an attempt to verify the current assumption that all latent syphilis patients have treponemal antibody. We now are concerned that syphilis infection may occur with no serological response to the current tests in use. This paper was given at the EADV in Budapest April 30/04. <<http://colman.net/eadv>> Abstract published in the Journal of the EADV.

You had asked me for some contacts in Montreal, and I mentioned Norbert Gilmore and Chris Tsoukis. I will work more on this, and call up these physicians (McGill University Medical School) when I return from my holiday next week. I think I can get well-documented specimens for your project sent to Montreal, from a clinic here in Toronto, too. But I will await the time, when you ask.